



PRESS RELEASE

National Consultation on Seed Systems to Strengthen Food and Nutrition Security in Koraput, Odisha

Jeypore, Odisha – February 26, 2025 – The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) is pleased to announce a National Consultation on Seed Systems scheduled for February 27 and 28, 2025, in Koraput, Odisha, as part of the MSS100 Centenary Celebrations honouring the life and enduring legacy of Professor M.S. Swaminathan. It also commemorates 30 years of MSSRF's impactful work in Odisha.

The event will be held at the MSSRF Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre in Jeypore, and aims to address the critical role of seed security in enhancing global food security and local nutritional well-being.

Seed systems are pivotal in providing farmers with timely and affordable access to a diverse range of crop seeds, thereby ensuring food and nutrition security. In the face of climate change, robust and biodiverse seed systems are essential for increasing food production, enhancing resilience, and combating malnutrition.

Koraput District, recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations as a 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System' (GIAHS), is renowned for its rich crop and ethnic diversity. This Consultation will focus on the unique challenges and opportunities in strengthening seed systems within this region, particularly in tribal communities.

Objectives of the Consultation are to assess current seed systems to help ensure food and nutrition security in the region, and to integrate traditional knowledge while operationalising legal provisions as well as make policy recommendations for a sustainable and gender-equitable seed system.

Several distinguished participants will attend including representatives from government agencies - the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha; delegates from FAO, Bioversity International, CIAT, ICRISAT, IRRI, and IIMR; subject experts; representatives from NGOs, CBOs, community leaders, and farmers, particularly from tribal areas, as well as scholars and practitioners specialising in agro-biodiversity conservation and food security.

Full details of the programme are in the attached [brochure](#).

For more information, kindly contact: Dr Kartik Lenka - 94374 35537

Join us in this pivotal dialogue to fortify seed systems and ensure a sustainable agricultural future.

Best regards,

Mr Prashant Parida,

Director – MSSRF Tribal Agro-biodiversity Centre

Website - <https://www.mssrf.org/mss100/>

